

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
and  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection  
Division of Agr'l. Statistics  
and  
Agricultural Extension Service  
Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 2-9-54 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 2-8-54

WEATHER The week was unseasonably warm, with temperatures averaging from 15° above normal in the east to 20° above in the extreme northwest. There was little wind, practically full sunshine, and rather low humidity. The frost is all out of the soil in the west, and going out fast in the east.

CROPS With few exceptions, winter wheat is generally good. A number of counties throughout the State reported that wheat had started to green up. There is some apprehension as to the outcome in case zero temperatures occur later if wheat continues to lose its winter hardiness. One southwestern county reports that while wheat has started to green up, the growth is scanty and insufficient for protection against blowing. The same county reports moisture down three feet in continuous cropped fields and four feet in summer fallow fields.

Field inspection in south-central Nebraska revealed slight desiccation but the crown of the wheat was still in moist soil and there appeared to be no material damage yet. This area was covered by snow during December, which kept the wheat plants green. Lack of snow covering during January, when zero temperatures occurred, seemed to have some adverse effect on wheat.

Owing to the mild, open winter, seasonal farm work is well advanced and there has been very little demand for farm labor. The open winter has saved feed supplies so that some areas have a surplus now and other areas expect to have additional surplus of hay and forage unless late winter and early spring is severe. Marketing of potatoes continues despite the low price. A total of 1800 cars has been marketed by February 3, which is slightly more than half the number of cars marketed up to the same date a year ago and slightly more than one-third of the rail movement last season. This does not take into account the movement by trucks.

LIVESTOCK Slaughter of cattle during the past year shows a marked increase, sheep a slight increase, while hog slaughter is down considerably. Nebraska slaughter of cattle for 1953 totaled 1,614,000 head, an increase of 36%. Calf slaughter with 57,300 head showed an increase of 163%. Slaughter of sheep totaled 1,244,000 head, an increase of 7%, while hog slaughter totaling 2,717,000 head revealed a decrease of 17%. December hog slaughter was down 39%. The annual report of livestock on hand January 1 will be released February 12.

Cattle slaughter in the U. S. in 1953 totaled 23,655,000 head, an increase of 32%. Calf slaughter totaled 11,698,000 head, an increase of 32%. Slaughter of sheep totaled 15,966,000 head, an increase of 14%. Slaughter of hogs totaled 66,980,000 head, a decrease of 14%. December hog slaughter was down 26%.

The demand for bred sows, gilts and feeder pigs is heavy and prices high. One county reported bred gilts selling up to \$130. The 1952 spring pig crop was down 17%, followed by a 25% decrease in the fall pig crop. The June 1953 pig survey showed a decrease of 14%, followed by an 8% decrease in the 1953 fall pig crop. Despite similar decreases nationally, and high prices during 1953, it was not until December 1953 that farmers planned to increase the spring pig crop.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 8, 1954

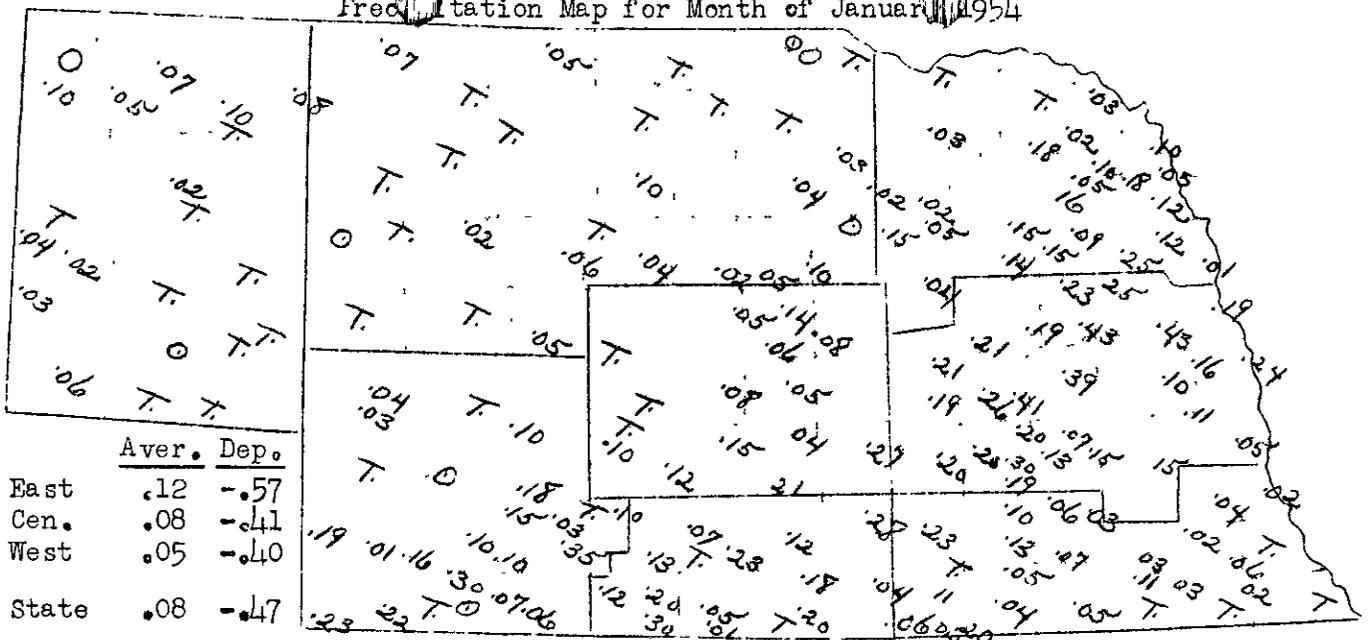
Eastern Division

Central Division

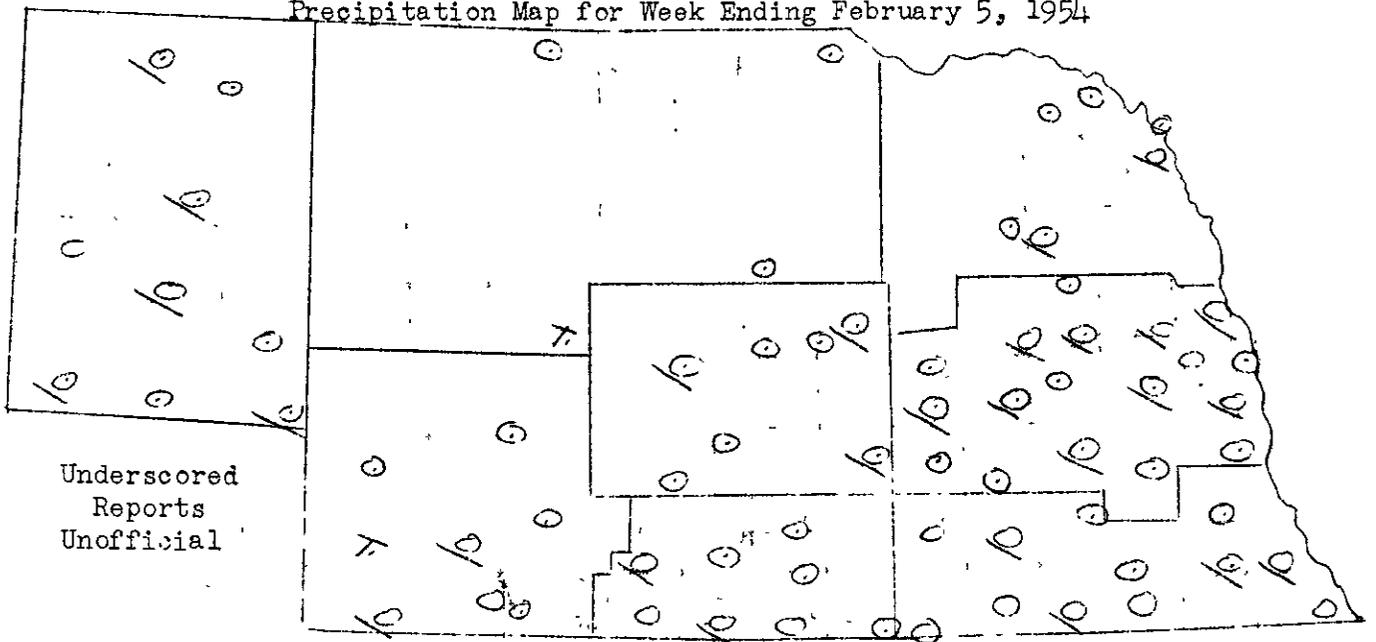
Western Division

No precipitation reported for week ending February 8, 1954.

Precipitation Map for Month of January 1954



Precipitation Map for Week Ending February 5, 1954



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (for 24 hours ending in a.m.)

		February		3rd		4th		5th		6th		7th		8th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	54	30	59	34	65	35	64	37	51	35	53	24	63	41
	Scottsbluff	53	24	62	28	61	31	63	28	55	28	51	18	63	32
	Sidney	52	28	61	32	68	33	63	28	54	28	49	17	60	35
N-C	Burwell	53	30	54	29	57	35	54	29	50	31	37	27	53	33
	Valentine	54	30	57	29	66	38	58	31	49	29	47	19	59	32
NE	Norfolk	53	35	53	27	52	36	52	24	46	23	35	14	49	32
	Sioux City	52	35	49	27	51	35	50	27	47	21	35	16	48	34
CEN.	Grand Island	54	31	57	28	52	35	56	30	51	32	29	19	50	33
	Lexington	55	27	59	29	59	35	60	28	53	33	45	20	54	30
E-C	Lincoln	57	34	59	31	54	36	56	30	53	26	38	14	49	35
	Omaha	56	36	57	26	49	38	55	35	52	27	39	14	48	31
SW	Imperial	56	27	64	31	70	30	64	32	58	31	50	24	59	32
	North Platte	57	22	61	26	65	37	63	24	52	32	49	21	57	25